

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers, comprising the steps of dissolving a polysaccharide in a solvent to form a solution, and spraying the solution into a bath which contains a water-miscible organic solvent and a cross-linker, wherein the solvent dissolving the polysaccharide is water, and wherein the cross-linker ionically cross-links the polysaccharide, wherein the polysaccharide fibers precipitate in the bath simultaneously with the ionic cross-linking of the polysaccharide.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of stretching, rolling-up, drying and cutting the polysaccharide fibers after the bath.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is an alcohol or a ketone.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 3, wherein the organic solvent is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol or acetone.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linker is a polyelectrolyte.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 5, wherein the cross-linker is polyvinylamine or hexadimethrinbromide.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linker is a salt where the cation in the salt is a metal ion.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 7, wherein the cation in the salt is divalent, trivalent or quadrivalent.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 8, wherein the cation in the salt is calcium, magnesium, iron, aluminum or zirconium.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 7, wherein the anion in the metal salt is chloride.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is comprised of carboxymethyl cellulose, starch, gellan, pectin or alginate.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 1, further comprising the step of cross-linking the fiber covalently in a following stage.

Claims 13-18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A method of producing polysaccharide fibers according to claim 1, wherein the bath is acidic.

Claims 20 and 21 (Canceled)